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Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 FEA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /150 W
---------- 024996
O R 191020Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4619

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FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG
SUBJECT: RTG BAN ON EXPORTS OF POL PRODUCTS

1. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY POL COMPANIES THAT YESTERDAY THE RTG PLACED A BAN ON THE EXPORT OF ALL POL PRODUCTS FROM THAILAND. THIS ACTION CUTS OFF SUPPLIES COMPLETELY TO THE BATTAMBANG AREA AND SERIOUSLY AFFECTS THE ALREADY DRASTICALLY REDUCED DELIVERIES BY SUMMIT TO KOMPONG SOM AND PHNOM PENH.

2. WE ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THE BAN WILL DO TO DELIVERIES TO BATTAMBANG. WITH THE MINIMAL STORAGE FACILITIES IN BATTAMBANG, AVAILABILITY OF PRODUCT IS FULLY DEPENDENT ON THE TWICE A WEEK CONVOY SYSTEM. IF ONLY ONE CONVOY FAILS TO ARRIVE THE SUPPLY WILL BE CRITICALLY DISRUPTED. CONTRIBUTING TO THE GRAVITY OF THIS SITUATION IS THE FACT THAT THE CURRENT DELIVERIES (JAN-MARCH) INCLUDE ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS OF DIESEL FUEL BADLY NEEDED FOR TRACTORS DURING THE RICE HARVEST. THE QUANTITIES INVOLVED ARE NOT LARGE;
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I.E., ABOUT 5,000 CM PER MONTH FOR BATTAMBANG. ANOTHER 1,500 CM

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PER MONTH IS SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY TO KOMPONG SOM AND PHNOM PENH BY SUMMIT.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THE POL COMAPNIES (SHELL, ESSO, CALTEX, SUMMIT) IN BANGKOK ARE ALREADY APPROACHING THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY SPECIAL PERMIT AS STIPULATED BY THE BAN'S PROVISIONS, TO CONTINUE THE SUPPLY OF POL TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC. WE HAVE ALSO ADVISED THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE HERE TO MAKE APPROPRIATE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS TO THE RTG.HOPEFULLY, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL DO THIS THROUGH THE RTG EMBASSY HERE AND TELEGRAPHICALLY THROUGH THE GKR EMBASSY IN BANGKOK.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY CONTACT POL COMPANIES ON MONDAY AND DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE HAVING ANY SUCCESS IN OBTAINING EXPORT PERMITS FROM THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. IF NOT, WE REQUEST THE EMBASSY MAKE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE RTG POINTING OUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, PARTICULARLY IN BATTAMBANG AND THE FACT THAT THAILAND IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR THE MODEST QUANTITIES NEEDED.

5. ADVISE ASAP.
ENDERS

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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: PHNOM PENH
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ISecure: 1
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